

Goal

Upgrade and improve state and local public health jurisdictions' preparedness response to bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease, and other public health threats and emergencies.

Overview

Disaster and emergency planning is an essential public health service—one that has been given short shrift until the last few years. Recent events such as the statewide anthrax scare, September 11th, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the possibility of an avian flu pandemic, have brought home the importance of adequate planning, preparedness, and appropriate response to disasters and emergencies. Specific objectives relating to the added emphasis on public health preparedness are included in this new chapter.

The Department for Public Health is charged with utilizing funds made available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to upgrade both state and local public health jurisdictions and to prepare them for a timely and appropriate response to bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease, and other public health threats and emergencies. Because such events (as bioterrorism) can occur both at state and local levels, response capacity must be assured so that all affected jurisdictions are readied to the maximum capacity and can respond in a reasonable length of time. Education of state and local public health agencies, key policy makers, partners and stakeholders and their recognition of the importance of adequate disaster and emergency planning are paramount in making Kentucky a proactive state—one that is prepared for any possible catastrophic event.

Summary of Progress

Since this is a new chapter with baselines set at mid-decade status, a summary of progress is not applicable.

Progress toward Achieving Each HK 2010 Objective

Summary of Objectives for Public Health Preparedness	Baseline	HK 2010 Target	Mid-Decade Status	Progress	Data Source
27.1N. Increase to 100 percent the percentage of local health departments (LHDs) that distribute to key policy makers, partners, and stakeholders in their jurisdiction, a periodic newsletter regarding the nature and scope of public health surveillance, investigation, response, and control.	35% produce newsletters (2005)	100%	35% (2005)	N/A	Survey of LHDs
27.2N. Increase response capacity by 20 percent by adding appropriately trained staff, such as epidemiologists, to conduct surveillance activities and investigate outbreaks as well as other public health emergencies.	10 state epis 17 regional epis (2005)	12 state epis 20 regional epis	10 state epis 17 regional epis (2005)	N/A	Review number of epidemiologists on staff
27.3N. Develop and maintain a registry of all public health personnel, other health care personnel, and security staff needed to maintain public order; EMS staff needed to transport ill patients; and hospital staff, private physicians and their staff who could serve on health care response teams in the event of a local, state or national emergency.	Registry began in Sept. 2005	Registry 95% complete	Registry began in Sept. 2005	N/A	Registry of personnel
27.4N. Develop an integrated, automated system to link infectious zoonotic disease information identified at the state diagnostic labs with the surveillance, identification and tracking system of the Kentucky Electronic Public Health Records System (KYEPHRS)	Will begin system in 2006	85% of system complete	Will begin system in 2006	N/A	Integrated database flag system

N= New objective

N/A = Only baseline data are available. Not able to determine progress at this time.